

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NANE

TAGS: EMIN EINV EAIO UNDP HA

SUBJ: COMMENTS BY UN OFFICIALS ON HAITI MINERALS SITUATION AND
OTHER MATTERS

REF: PAP 1846

1. NICHOLAS GLEBOFF, OFFICE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION OF UN, MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON MINERALS SITUATION AT JULY 23 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, DRAWING UPON HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY BAYARD AND OTHER GOH OFFICIALS.

2. UN MINERAL SURVEY IS NEARING SECOND PHASE WITH FIVE BORINGS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER. ON BASIS OF DATA THUS FAR OBTAINED, PROSPECTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL COPPER RESERVES REMAIN GOOD, SO MUCH SO THAT UN CONCERNED GOH WILL BE SWAMPED UNLESS IT OBTAINS SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN MINERALS FIELD. UN STANDS READY TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE, BUT IN VIEW WIDE VARIETY OF SKILLS NEEDED THE UN WOULD WELCOME USG PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GOH THROUGH GROUPS SUCH AS US BUREAU OF MINES. (COMMENT: WE WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS POINT UPON RECEIPT OF UN REPORT WHICH GLEBOFF WILL INFORMALLY MAKE AVAILABLE.)

3. TWO STAFF MEMBERS MINERALS INSTITUTE ARE UNSUITED FOR JOBS AND
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STAFF NEEDS STRENGTHENING. UN DISAPPOINTED THAT EDOUARD LAROCHE,

CHIEF, SERVICE OF GEOLOGY AND MINES IN AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED HIS POWERS UNDER REORGANIZATION, SINCE HE HAD BEEN TENACIOUS GUARDIAN OF HAITIAN INTERESTS. IN FACT, HIS ABILITY

TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF UN SURVEY WAS, IN HAITIAN CONTEXT, A MINOR MIRACLE.

4. NEW MINERAL LAW IS DOUBLY DEFICIENT: IT FAILS TO PROTECT HAITI'S INTERESTS AS AGAINST FOREIGNERS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME IT CONTAINS UNREALISTIC CLAUSES WHICH WILL DISCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE FIRMS FROM NEGOTIATING WITH GOH. ALTHOUGH NEW LAW WAS DRAFTED BY UN EXPERTS, IT WAS ALTERED IN COMMERCE DEPT WHEN FOURCAND WAS IN CHARGE AND SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT DUVALIER AS A WHOLLY UN DOCUMENT. GLEBOFF WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR TEXTUAL COMPARISON TO BE SHOWN PRESIDENT, WHO NOW UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULTY AND IS CONSIDERING HOW TO RESHAPE LAW WITHOUT SEEMING TO WATER DOWN "NATIONALISTIC" THRUST.

5. UN HAS ARRANGED FOR AMERICAN FIRM TO PREPARE A HYPOTHETICAL DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR MINERALS CONCESSION. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE GIVEN TO MINERALS BOARD AS EXAMPLE OF ISSUES WHICH GOH WILL NEED TO NEGOTIATE.

6. BAYARD SAYS GOH WISHES HAVE DIVERSIFICATION OF FOREIGN FIRMS IN MINERALS FIELD. (COMMENT: THIS CONFIRMS BAYARD'S PREVIOUS STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL TO EFFECT GOH DOES NOT WISH DEAL WITH FOREIGN CONSORTIUM).

7. IN ADDITION, GLEBOFF MENTIONED THAT:

A. GOH IS REQUEST FRENCH CAISSE CENTRALE, WHICH HAS LONG AIDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN FORMER FRENCH WEST AFRICA, TO OPEN BRANCH IN HAITI. CAISSE CAN LOAN MONEY AT 3 PERCENT INTEREST.

B. GOH HAS ACCEPTED NOMINATION OF BRAZILIAN NAMED PATRIOTA AS NEW UNDP REPRESENTATIVE; ACTING UN RESREP JANNONE, WHOM FOURCAND HAD REQUESTED UN TO NAME TO SLOT, WILL BE TRANSFERRED THIS FALL. JANNONE HAS DONE GOOD JOB HERE, BUT FOURCAND'S INTERVENTION WAS EVIDENTLY KISS OF DEATH.

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